

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /049 W

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O P 041158Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7677

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: SUDDEN TRAVELING BY COMMUNIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVES

1. EMBASSY'S SURPRISE IN LEARNING KSC FIRST SECRETARY GUSTAV HUSAK HAD DEPARTED PRAGUE EARLY MARCH 3 FOR A "SHORT" AND "FRIENDLY" TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS OVERTAKEN BY HUSAK'S JUST AS SUDDEN RETURN TO PRAGUE EARLY SAME EVENING. RUDE PRAVO MARCH 4 FEATURED PREDICTABLE FRONT PAGE BRIEF PRESS STATEMENT WITH PHOTO OF BREZHNEV AND HUSAK ALONE AT LONG CONFERENCE TABLE, BUT JUST AS PREDICTABLY OFFERED NO HARD FACTS AS TO WHAT THE TWO DISCUSSED. ALL OTHER DAILIES FEATURED SAME TEXTS.

2. THIS UNANIMOUS COVERAGE OF UNUSUAL NEWS MARCH 4 SPILLS OVER TO ANOTHER UNEXPECTED PAGE ONE NEWS REPORT: THAT PRAGUE IS SUDDEN VENUE FOR MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOVIET, BULGARIAN, EAST GERMAN, CUBAN, HUNGARIAN, MONGOL PYN, POLISH AND ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. THOUGH NOT STATING SPECIFICALLY WHO

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ARRIVED NOR PRECISELY WHEN, ARTICLE DISCLOSES THAT REPS

FLEW INTO PRAGUE BOTH ON MAR 2 AND 3; ONE SAFE CONCLUSION
BASED ON WORDING IS THAT THEY WERE ALREADY MEETING
ON MAR 3.

3. IN ABSENCE OF ANY HARD NEWS, SPECULATION ON PURPOSE OF
HUSAK TRIP HAS CENTERED ON FOLLOWING: A) PRESIDENT
SVOBODA'S HEALTH AND SUCCESSION QUESTION; B) NEED FOR
INTERNAL LIBERALIZATION IN CSSR AND REHABILITATION OF
INTELLECTUALS AND TECHNOCRATS OUSTED IN POST-1968 DEVELOP-
MENTS; C) RECENT SMUGGLING OUT AND PUBLICATION OF
SMRKOVSKY MEMOIRS; D) PRAGUE MEETING OF CC REPRESENTATIVES
REPORTED PARA 2.
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